KENNEDY 11/18 NX

NEW YORK (UPI)--MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY, WEAKENED BY THE PREMATURE BIRTH OF HER SON, VIRTUALLY COLLAPSED FOLLOWING HER HUSBAND'S INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT AND WAS FORCED TO TAKE A DEXEDRINE PILL TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE INAUGURAL BALLS, IT WAS DISCLOSED SATURDAY.

THE INCIDENT, DESCRIBED BY A LONGTIME FAMILY FRIEND IN AN EXCERPT FROM A SOON TO BE PUBLISHED BOOK, WENT UNREPORTED BECAUSE THE NEW FIRST LADY MANAGED NOT ONLY TO ATTEND THE BALLS BUT SURPRISED EVEN HER HUSBAND WITH HER RADIANT APPEARANCE.

THE SECTION OF MARY VAN RENSSELAER THAYER'S BOOK "JACQUELINE KENNEDY'S YEARS IN THE WHITE HOUSE" PUBLISHED IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF MCCALL'S MAGAZINE ALSO DESCRIBES MRS. KENNEDY'S DETERMINATION TO MAKE THE WHITE HOUSE, WHICH SHE CONSIDERED "SAD" AND DREARY LOOKING, INTO A "COZY" RESIDENCE FOR HER FAMILY AND AN ELEGANT AND HISTORIC SETTING FOR AFFAIRS OF STATE.

JAN. 20, 1961 WAS A HAPPY DAY FOR MRS. KENNEDY, THE ARTICLE SAID, BUT SHE WAS STILL WEAK FOLLOWING THE BIRTH OF JOHN JR. ON THE PREVIOUS NOV. 5 AND THE HOURS SHE SPENT BESIDE HER HUSBAND IN THE ICY WIND TOOK THEIR TOLL.

RETURNING TO THE WHITE HOUSE EARLY, SHE VISITED BRIEFLY WITH HER GODFATHER, MICHAEL BOUVIER, THEN LAY DOWN TO REST, THE ARTICLE SAID.

"WHEN IT WAS TIME TO GET READY FOR DINNER, I COULDN'T GET OUT OF BED," MRS. KENNEDY IS QUOTED AS RECALLING. "I JUST DIDN'T HAVE ONE BIT OF STRENGTH LEFT AND FELT ABSOLUTELY PANICKED. WHAT COULD I DO? SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH DR. TRAVELL."

DR. JANET TRAVELL, LATER TO BE NAMED THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, SUMMONED FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL REVIEWING STAND TO TREAT THE NEW FIRST LADY.

"SHE FOUND HER PARENT SUFFERING FROM PAINFUL LEG CRAMPS AND EXHAUSTION," THE ARTICLE SAID. "DR. TRAVELL ORDERED DINNER IN BED AND PRESCRIBED A SINGLE RUST-COLOR PILL. IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE FOLLOWING

DAY THAT MRS. KENNEDY LEARNED SHE HAD TAKEN HER FIRST, AND WHAT WAS TO BE HER LAST DEXEDRINE TABLET."

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, THE ARTICLE SAID, MRS. KENNEDY JOINED HER HUSBAND TO ATTEND THE TWO BALLS, RESPLENDANT IN HER WHITE CHIFFON SHEATH. THE PRESIDENT, THE ARTICLE SAID, TOLD HIS WIFE, "DARLING, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LOOK SO LOVELY," AND ORDERED CHAMPAGNE TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION.

THE AUTHOR QUOTES AT LENGTH FROM A PREINAUGURAL MEMO TO MRS. KENNEDY FROM HER NEWLY APPOINTED SOCIAL SECRETARY--LETITIA BALDRIGE, NOW MRS. ROBERT HOLLENSTEINER OF CHICAGO--DETAILING THE "SHOCKING FACTS" THAT "THE WHITE HOUSE BUDGET IS TOO SMALL. IT CANNOT AFFORD PROPER FLOWERS, PROPER LINENS; PROPER CONTAINERS FOR FLOWERS AND PLANTS -- AND WORST OF ALL, CHAMPAGNE AND COCKTAILS AT BIG DINNERS AND RECEPTIONS."

FOLLOWING THE INAUGURATION MRS. KENNEDY WAS TO ANNOUNCE THROUGH HER SOCIAL SECRETARY PLANS TO REDO THE WHITE HOUSE WITH HER $25,000 CONGRESSIONAL ALLOTMENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS AND TO DRASTICALLY CHANGE ITS STYLE OF LIVING.

RR638PES